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THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY
REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 16 April 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement on Afghanistan issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 28 and 69 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) V. LOZINSKIY
Chargé d'affaires a.i. of
the Permanent Mission of
the Russian Federation

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ANNEX

Statement on Afghanistan issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

The achievement of a comprehensive political settlement in Afghanistan based on the assurance of the right of the Afghan people to self-determination is one of the key goals of the foreign policy of the Russian Federation. In pursuing that goal, we work in close collaboration with all the parties concerned and with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Thanks to the active role of the United Nations, genuine prospects are now emerging for a resolution of the protracted military conflict in Afghanistan, as well as an end to the distress and deprivation of the suffering people of that country.

The agreement among the majority of the Afghan forces - President Najibullah and many opposition leaders - on the need for a peaceful transfer of power in Afghanistan and, to that end, for the establishment of the plenipotentiary "pre-transitional council", referred to in the statement issued by the United Nations Secretary-General on 10 April 1992, marks the beginning of a new phase in the advancement of the political process. This will be a first step - and needless to say, a difficult step, which must be followed by the cessation of military activities, the proclamation of a general amnesty, and the provision of security guarantees for all Afghans.

It is our firm expectation that at the very start of the transitional period, there will be a definitive solution to the question of the release of all former Soviet military personnel - nationals of States members of the Commonwealth - taken prisoner in Afghanistan.

We appeal to the Afghan parties to display political wisdom, to be guided by the highest interests of their country and to do their utmost not to miss this nascent opportunity to restore peace and harmony in Afghanistan. For its part, Russia is prepared to make an active contribution to the attainment of that goal, in conjunction with the United Nations and other members of the international community.